

I

wherein

$R^1$  is optionally protected hydroxy,

$R^2$  is hydrogen or optionally protected hydroxy,

$R^3$  is methyl, ethyl, propyl or allyl,

$n$  is 1 or 2 and

the symbol of a line and dotted line is a single bond or a double bond,

in free form or in pharmaceutically acceptable salt form.

14. A method according to claim 13, wherein,

$R^3$  is propyl or allyl, and

the symbol of a line and dotted line is a single bond,

in free form or in pharmaceutically acceptable salt form.

15. A method according to claim 13, wherein

$R^1$  and  $R^2$  are hydroxy,

$R^3$  is propyl or allyl,

$n$  is 2, and

the symbol of a line and dotted line is a single bond,  
in free form or in pharmaceutically acceptable salt form.

16. A method according to claim 13, wherein

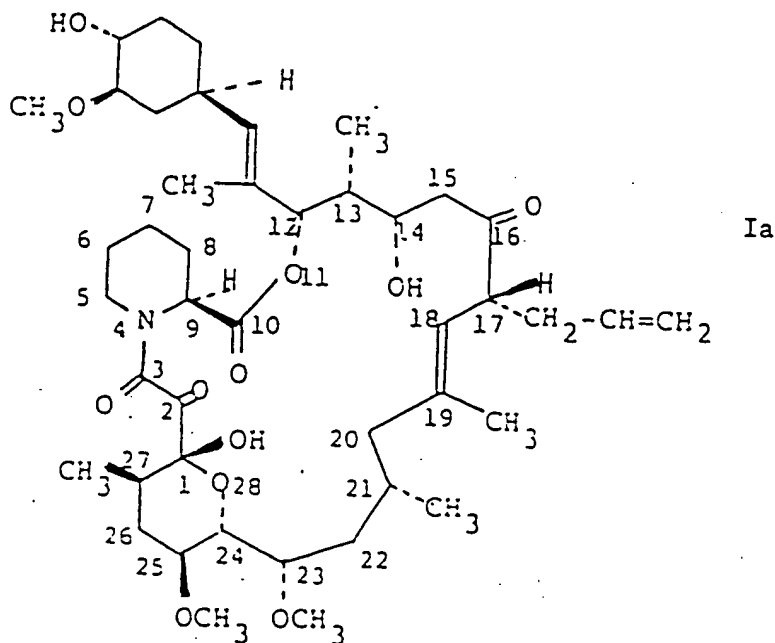
$R^1$  and  $R^2$  are hydroxy,

$R^3$  is allyl,

$n$  is 2, and

the symbol of a line and dotted line is a single bond,  
in free form or in pharmaceutically acceptable salt form.

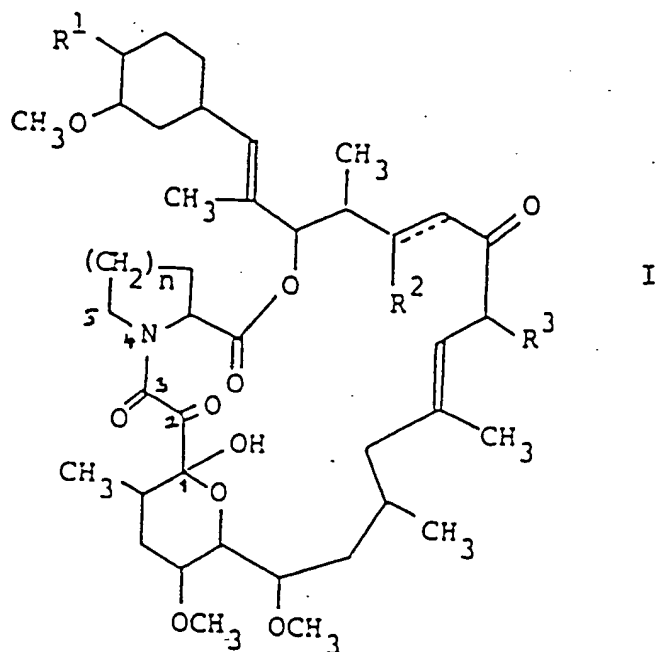
*B' cont*  
17. The method according to claim 13 in which the compound  
is



in free form.

18. A method according to claim 13 in which the compound is administered 2 to 5 times daily in the form of a lotion, gel, or cream comprising 1 to 3% of the compound.

19. A pharmaceutical composition for topical administration in the form of a lotion, gel, or cream comprising 1% to 3% of a compound of the formula



wherein

$R^1$  is optionally protected hydroxy,

$R^2$  is hydrogen or optionally protected hydroxy,

$R^3$  is methyl, ethyl, propyl or allyl,

$n$  is 1 or 2 and

the symbol of a line and dotted line is a single bond or a double bond,

in free form or in pharmaceutically acceptable salt form,  
and a pharmaceutically acceptable topical carrier for a  
lotion, gel, or cream.

20. A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 19,  
wherein,

$R^3$  is propyl or allyl, and  
the symbol of a line and dotted line is a single bond,  
in free form or in pharmaceutically acceptable salt form.

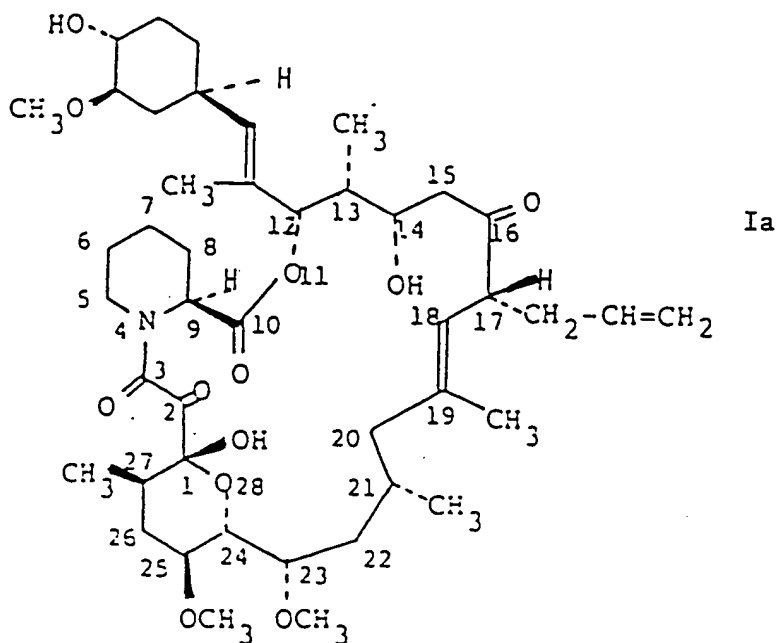
*B' cont*  
21. A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 19,  
wherein  $R^1$  and  $R^2$  are hydroxy,

$R^3$  is propyl or allyl,  
 $n$  is 2, and  
the symbol of a line and dotted line is a single bond,  
in free form or in pharmaceutically acceptable salt form.

22. A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 19,  
wherein  $R^1$  and  $R^2$  are hydroxy,

$R^3$  is allyl,  
 $n$  is 2, and  
the symbol of a line and dotted line is a single bond,  
in free form or in pharmaceutically acceptable salt form.

23. The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 19 in which the compound is



in free form.

24. A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 19 in which the composition is a lotion.

25. A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 19 in which the composition is a gel.

26. A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 19 in which the composition is a cream.